

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:RGRICH,JR.:CB
APPROVED BY RE:RHOLBROOKE
EA - MR. SULLIVAN
S/S-O - JTHYDEN

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O 152158Z JUL 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 179542

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT:OPENING UP THE KIM DONG-JO DIALOGUE

1. IN RESPONSE TO OUR URGINGS BOTH HERE AND IN SEOUL
THAT THE ROKG AT LEAST AUTHORITATIVELY REAFFIRM TO
THE CONGRESS THAT THE MID-JUNE OFFER TO JAWORSKI WAS STILL
OPEN AS A MEANS OF COMMUNICATION WITH KIM DONG-JO IT
APPEARS THAT ROKG MAY HAVE GRUDGINGLY ACCEPTED THIS IDEA.

2. ROK EMBASSY COUNSELOR SHIN INFORMED US JULY 14 THAT
ROKG HAD AGREED TO AMBASSADOR KIM YONG-SHIK MAKING ORAL
STATEMENT TO DEPARTMENT AND THAT DEPARTMENT WOULD THEN BE
ASKED TO INFORM CONGRESS OF ROKG POSITION. WE HAVE
POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD BE MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE IF
AMBASSADOR WROTE DIRECTLY TO CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP. IF
THIS IS NOT FEASIBLE (AND WE GATHER ROKG IS ADAMANT AGAINST
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DIRECT DIALOGUE WITH THE HOUSE AT THIS TIME), THEN AT
MINIMUM AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT SHOULD BE SUPPLIED IN
WRITING TO THE DEPARTMENT OUTLINING THE ROKG POSITION.
THIS COULD EITHER BE IN FORM OF LETTER OR DIPLOMATIC NOTE.
SUCH AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT COULD BE BROUGHT TO THE
ATTENTION OF THE CONGRESS BY THE DEPARTMENT. WITHOUT AN
OFFICIAL DOCUMENT, HOWEVER, ROKG SHOULD NOT EXPECT

DEPARTMENT TO TRY TO INTERPRET KOREAN POSITION TO
OTHERS EFFECTIVELY AT THIS STAGE.

3. ROK EMBASSY HAS SHOWN US DRAFT OF PROPOSED STATEMENT
PROVIDED BY SEOUL. ALTHOUGH CLEARLY STATING ROKG
POSITION AND REAFFIRMING THAT PREVIOUS OFFER REMAINS
OPEN, STATEMENT WAS CAST IN PERSONALLY ARGUMENTATIVE TONE
ATTACKING SPECIAL COUNSEL JAWORSKI. KOREA DIRECTOR RICH
POINTED OUT TO ROKG EMBASSY THAT ARGUMENTATIVE NATURE
OF DOCUMENT WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL. PARTICULARLY IF THE
"ORAL STATEMENT" WERE TO BE CONVERTED TO AN OFFICIAL
DOCUMENT, WE WOULD FIND THE PERSONAL REFERENCE TO BE
OFFENSIVE.

4. IF ROKG IS TO CLEARLY RESTATE ITS OFFER OF
COOPERATION, TIMING IS BECOMING CRITICAL. SENATE
CONSIDERATION OF MUTUAL SECURITY LEGISLATION HAS NOW
BEEN MOVED FORWARD ONE WEEK AND MAY REACH THE FLOOR
TUESDAY, JULY 18. TO EXTENT FEASIBLE, YOU SHOULD
URGE PROMPT RESOLUTION OF THIS QUESTION IN SEOUL IN
ORDER THAT AMBASSADOR KIM MAY BE AUTHORIZED TO GIVE US AN
OFFICIAL WRITTEN STATEMENT OF THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT'S
POSITION ON MONDAY.
CHRISTOPHER

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